(b) Government is actively contemplating expansion of a programme on care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS across the six high prevalence states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu, so as to include anti-retroviral drugs for specific target groups, through the pubic health care system.

Treatment for Osteoporosis

2084. SHRI B.J PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the AIIMS, among others, has been asked by ICMR to gear up for better osteoporosis treatment; if so, the details of such other centres;

(b) whether it is a fact that the bones of Indian people have poorer mineral content than those of African and Asian descent and whether around 1 5 crores of our population suffers from bones diseases, and

(c) whether a meet on the subject was held in AIIMS premises last October to create awareness about this disease, if so, the details of the observations made at this meet?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

WHO's Report on TB Patients

2085. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report issued recently by World Health organisation states that more than 4.5 million persons in India are suffering from Tuberculosis-the highest number of TB patients in the world; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to launch on massive scale a renewed campaign to check the scourage of TB?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To control the disease, National TB Control Programme is in operation in the country since 1962. Revised National TB Control Programme based on DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is